

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 30, 37, 39, 41, 44 and 49 are independent.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim 1-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,161,134 to Wang et al. ("Wang"). Although Applicant does not admit that Wang is relevant to any of claims 1-51, Applicant attaches a Declaration dated December 8, 2003, from the named inventor Dorée D. Seligmann pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 ("Seligmann Declaration"). Attached to the Seligman Declaration are Exhibits A and B evidencing Seligmann's approval of a draft patent application prepared by outside counsel (Exhibit A) and a copy of a draft patent application (Exhibit B). The Applicant respectfully contends that the draft patent application (Exhibit B) evidences a complete disclosure of the invention to another prior to the effective date of Wang and overcomes the asserted deficiencies of the Declaration filed June 3, 2003, and thereby removes Wang as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submit claims 1-51 are allowable over the only reference applied to the pending claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Wang.

CONCLUSION

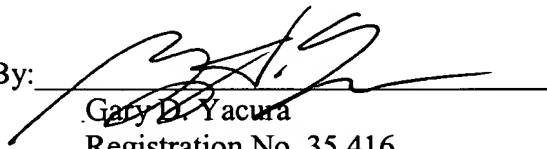
In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the various rejections and allowance of pending claims 1-51 is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments, or any other outstanding matters remained in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to discuss this application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; including, in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Seligmann Declaration with Exhibits A and B